

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 /107 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8413

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5476

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNGA, SHUM, UG

SUBJ: NORDIC HUMAN RIGHTS IN UGANDA RESOLUTION AND NIGERIAN
RESOLUTION CALLING FOR REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS
CONTINUE OBJECTS OF INTENSE NEGOTIATION

1. SUMMARY. THIRD COMMITTEE'S WORK DEADLINE OF FRIDAY, DEC 9
IS PRESSING HARD ON THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE NORDICS AND
THE AFRICAN, WHICH REMAIN STALEMATED. THE NIGERIANS ARE BEING
PRESSURED BY EASTERN BLOC TO WITHDRAW THEIR RESOLUTION BECAUSE
OF ALLEGED LACK OF TIME FOR DUE CONSIDERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE UGANDAN RESOLUTION, THE "JUICES CONTINUE
TO FLOW" IN THE AFRICAN BLOC, WITH A MAJORITY FAVORING A
PROPOSED STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE
ANNOUNCING THE DECISION OF THE NORDICS TO REFRAIN FROM PUSHING
FOR A FORMAL VOTE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ISSUE OF
HUMAN RIGHTS IN UGANDA WILL BE RAISED IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION (HRC). A MINORITY, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO INSIST
THAT THE NORDIC RESOLUTION MUST BE WITHDRAWN WITHOUT THE
STATEMENT, OR BE VOTED DOWN. THE AFRICANS ARE
SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN MORNING OF DEC 9, AND THEIR
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REPS TO MEET AGAIN WITH THE NORDISC AT NOON DEC 9.

3. THE PROPOSED STATEMENT BY THE THIRD COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN WOULD DELIBERATELY LEAVE TWO ISSUES VAGUE:
WHETHER AN AFRICAN MEMBER OF THE HRC WOULD SUPPORT
RAISING THE ISSUE, AND WHETHER IT WOULD BE RAISED PUBLICLY
OR UNDER THE CONFIDENTIAL 1503 PROCEDURES AS IT WAS AT

LAST MEETING OF HRC. THE AFRICAN BLOC IS TOO DIVIDED ON THIS ISSUE TO AGREE TO ANY ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE IN THE PROPOSED STATEMENT.

4. UK THIRD COMMITTEE REP IS UNHAPPY ABOUT APPARENT WILLINGNESS OF THE NORDICS TO SETTLE FOR THE STATEMENT WITHOUT A FORMAL PROCEDURAL VOTE REFERRING THE ISSUE TO THE HRC AS WAS DONE WITH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER PROPOSAL, AND APPROACHED FINNS WITH THEIR COMPLAINT. FINNS REPLIED THAT IT WAS A NORDIC INITIATIVE, AND THAT ANY VOTE WOULD PROBABLY PRODUCE A RESULT THAT THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT COULD USE AS PART OF A CAMPAIGN TO PROVE THAT IT WAS GIVEN A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH BY MOST NATIONS IN THE WORLD.

5. NIGERIAN RESOLUTION ON REGIONAL MACHINERY: THE ARAB BLOC IS UNHAPPY ABOUT OMAN'S CO-SPONSORSHIP OF NIGERIAN PROPOSAL BECAUSE THEY RESENT NOT BEING CONSULTED. PERU FIRST AGREED TO CO-SPONSOR BUT LATER SAID IT WOULD PREFER JUST TO SUPPORT AND WE HEAR SOME OF THE LATINS ARE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE DRAFT. THERE WERE NO NEW ADDITIONS TO CO-SPONSORSHIP LIST TODAY, THE NIGERIAN EXPLAINING THAT MOST OF THE AFRICAN DELS HAVE DIFFICULTY IN GETTING INSTRUCTIONS SO RAPIDLY. ALSO, IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE SOVIET BLOC AND CUBA ARE WORKING HARD AGAINST THE PROPOSAL, CALLING IT "A DISGUISED HIGH COMMISSIONER." THEY ARE CLAIMING THAT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TIME FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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ADEQUATE CONSULTATION, THAT THE IDEA IS "INTERESTING," BUT THAT THE PROPOSAL IS POORLY DRAWN, AND THAT MORE TIME IS NEEDED, SO FAR, THE NIGERIANS ARE DETERMINED TO GO AHEAD, BUT ALMOST ANY PROCEDURAL MOVE COULD KILL THE PROPOSAL AT THIS LATE HOUR IN THE MEETINGS OF THIRD CMTE.

6. UK OFFERED SOME MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE NIGERIAN INITIATIVE WHICH WERE ACCEPTED, SUBJECT TO CO-SPONSORS INSTRUCTIONS: IN OPERATIVE PARA 3, AFTER THE WORD "REGIONS," ADD "AND INVITE THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO COMMENT ON THESE STUDIES." TAKE THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE AFTER THE SAME WORD "REGIONS," AND MAKE IT INTO A NEW PARA 5. THE SOVIET UNION WANTED TO STRIKE THE WORDS "EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES AND THE" IN OPERATIVE PARA 4, BUT THIS WAS REFUSED BY THE NIGERIANS. NO OTHER AMENDMENTS, BUT SOME AFRICAN NATIONS ARE ALSO COMPLAINING TO NIGERIA THAT THEY HAVE NOT SUFFICIENT TIME TO STUDY THE PROPOSAL.

7. COMMENT: THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF THE NIGERIAN REP ACTIVELY AND EFFECTIVELY PUSHING A HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (AS PROCEDURAL AS IT MAY BE, IN ITS FIRST STAGES) HAS JOLTED THE TRADITIONAL THIRD COMMITTEE CLUB

ONCE MORE, AND FORCED REAL NEGOTIATIONS ONCE AGAIN.
BECAUSE IT IS SENSED THAT IN A SHOWDOWN, IT MIGHT FAIL,
THE EASTERN BLOC IS AGAIN TRYING TO USE STALLING AND
PROCEDURAL TACTICS. USUN IS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE
NIGERIANS TO HANG IN, AND THE NORDICS TO HANG TOUGH
UNTIL THE LAST HOUR BEFORE WITHDRAWING, IN CASE THE
PROPOSED STATEMENT IS NOT FINALLY AGREED UPON. THIS IS
ALSO THE LINE OF ALGARD (NORWEGIAN PERMREP) AND PASTINEN
(FINNISH PERMREP) AND HARRIMAN. THE LAST HOURS SHOULD
BE INTERESTING. END COMMENT.

8. US STATEMENT AS APPROVED BY DEPT IS READY AND WILL
BE GIVEN AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME DEC 9. BOTH HARRIMAN
AND ALGARD HAVE ASSURED MISSOFF THEY BELIEVE SUCH A
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STATEMENT WILL BE HELPFUL.
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Message Attributes

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